

# I HAVE A DREAM

Martin Luther King, Jr. is considered by many to be one of the most influential men in recent history. He achieved this status through his insistence that nonviolent means should be used to achieve racial and economic justice. King changed America, and the world, forever with his "I Have a Dream" speech delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. He also influenced the struggle for freedom in South Africa, his work serving as an inspiration for Nobel Peace prize winner Albert Lutuli, who fought for racial justice in this country.

After reading his historic speech and the accompanying fact sheet on Martin Luther King, Jr., think of a dream for your own community, your country or the world and write an essay of no longer than 1,500 words describing your dream and **what you can do to achieve it.**



## Black History Month Essay Competition Entry Form

Student Name: Carla Grace van Niekerk

Contact No.: 082 668 9376

Date of Birth: 20/04/1995

Date of Entry: 31 March

I hereby certify that the attached essay is my original work.

Student's Signature: [Signature]

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THE CAPE ACADEMY  
of Maths, Science & Technology  
1 ACHADEL VASEKAPA  
yeniBato, (Nzulu) off the Tokai Rd  
DIE KAAPSE AKADEEMIE  
vir Wiskunde, Wetenskap & Tegnologie  
Entries may also be dropped off at:  
Address: PIROGROUW 2301, CONSTITUTIA  
Tel: 021 794 6104 Rosa Parks Library, Soweto

### Rules

- Closing date for entries: **31 March 2011**
- Open to all 12 - 18 year-old learners (students)
- Must be the original work of the entrant
- Maximum length is 2 pages
- Illegible entries will be disqualified
- No late entries will be accepted and the judges' decision is final
- This entry form should be attached to your essay
- Your signature is required

- Mae Jemison Science Reading Room, Mamelodi
- Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban Information Resource Centers
- USinfo@Central, Cape Town Central Library
- Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg American Corners



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\* These libraries are at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria and the U.S. Consulates General in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. For more information, visit <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/naahm2011.html>

To research your topic, visit one of the Libraries mentioned above, or your school - or public library.

**Carla Grace**  
**van Niekerk**

**I Have A Dream**

**The Cape Academy of**  
**Math, Science and**  
**Technology**

## **I HAVE A DREAM**

I have a dream that the red sun of our ancestors will finally set. Our people need to remember their future and awake from their past. The painful blood-stained sack of relics of the past will be released and the bitter taste of apartheid, although the most well known, will be replaced not with a sense of outrage at the injustice of the past, but with an everlasting flavor of hope that makes us see the past, but turns us to the future with a determination to never repeat history.

I have a dream that pride and prejudice will remain a novel and will not be put into practice as a means of racism and distinguishing superiority due to insecurities. We will stop complaining about our neighbor's success and our lack of it, and then continue procrastinating change. We will no longer be afraid of going beyond the comfort of complaining and hoping authorities will solve our problems for us. Men and women of all cultures will be treated equally in every society and sexism will be yet another memory of the past.

I have a dream that criminal acts will be reduced to a mere fraction of its dark glory and that South Africa will be a place of peace and harmony. We will no longer live in a prison of fear, continuously questioning whether or not our existence will be brought to an untimely end by a freak shower of bullets or by having our pride and possessions ripped from our pockets and houses. Narcotics will no longer consume our youth and they will not fall prey to eager, corrupt hands.

We will guard our mothers and women as they are the ones who produce our sons. We will educate our sons and daughters so they do not fall into the abyss of early parenthood. Children will not have to make the decision of ending or saving a life through abortion so they can avoid being single parents. Rape will release its bloody fingers from our innocent ones. Young women will no longer be required to sell their bodies and dignity on street corners. Jobs and care will be provided for them by our new government. Illegal trafficking will be stopped with all the power and might of South Africa. The disease which embodies death and tragedy known as HIV/AIDS will cease its powerful rule over our country and innocent children will stop wondering when they will see the golden gates. A cure will be produced that is available to all. Our citizens will not dissolve and disintegrate into shadows of the great people they once were.

I have a dream that our children will be taken care of. Orphans will dramatically decrease in number and will be placed in homes where they will know happiness and love and will be prepared to be the future. Education will no longer be a trying business due to lack of resources. Our education system will not bring shame or produce illiterate matriculates while our leaders refuse to change because the image of the country must be upheld. There will be no image left when the matriculates run havoc in the country because of unemployment. Our education system will be one to rival all nations and when South Africans succeed and produce the future of the world with our crafty hands, other countries will not wonder how we survived the bushveld and crime, but simply say: "It is of no surprise they are brilliant. They are South African after all."

I have a dream that our leaders will no longer corrupt our hopes by making empty promises and heartlessly bribing us to win our affection so they can gain power and stature and then proceed to forget about the people they bribed. I dream that the politicians who possess a conscience will remember that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. They will remember honesty and hard work and will portray it as best as they can to our people, then continue to teach us how to follow in their moral footsteps. The epic battle between our leaders and the people will come to an end as both parties come to a fair negotiation of how the country should be run.

I have a dream that medical aid will be offered freely to all men and women of every creed and colour. No longer will the rich receive preference of health care, which they seldom need due to their circumstance, but the poor will receive equal health care as well for diseases that are regularly not of their will, but of circumstance and situation. Sanitation arguments will become a thing of the past as individuals and communities in need will know the joy of a clean toilet and fresh water that does not infect or ruin them.

Our country's financial state will improve. There will not be a constant and unquenchable thirst for money anymore. Our officials will restore and renovate the handling of our money. There will not be an ongoing war between everyone and the government about finances anymore. It will become reasonable and manageable. Unemployment will no longer be a popular job description, but a term seldom used. People with wonderful qualifications will no longer ride the jobless wagon, but will ride on the crest of the mighty wave of employment and success. People with no qualifications will be able to become qualified and will not have to settle for a salary that is sunken in the mud below the sky-high headline.

I have a dream that when the people of South Africa awake they will not be choked and poisoned with fumes. Our children will be able to play in rivers without fear of catching a deadly illness or being poisoned with toxic waste. Our eyes will not close in disgust because of the sea of unwanted rubbish that crawls along the roads and into public places. Companies will turn green, not with envy, but with determination to better our country's situation. Our country will no longer be eaten away by acidic trash and attitudes, but will be a place of cleanliness.

I have a dream that the spirit of our nation's soul will be lit and you will see the passion of hope, peace, love and happiness on the planes of our motherland's face. Our dormant volcano of dreams will awake in people. If every individual has a beautifully real dream, our country will be saved because a dream defines a person, many people define a nation and together our nation will be able to conceive a dream of the future that is so strong it will shake our country's foundation to the core. The tempest storm of people's rage will now be calmed. Behold! Our beautiful African sun rises, evaporating negative mists and shedding light on new beginnings. Our pursuit of happiness is about to be fulfilled. Only one question remains to be asked of our country: "Are you *ready* to change?"

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